State Senator Ed Maloney welcomed NAIA National Champions, Saint Xavier University Football Cougars of Chicago, to the Senate today and recognized the coaches and players for their successful 2011 season. Ninety percent of the team members are from Illinois and Saint Xavier is in Senator Maloney's district.

The Saint Xavier University Football Cougars of Chicago completed their 2011 season with a 13-1 record, earning them the team's seventh postseason appearance since 2002. The Cougars advanced to the NAIA National Championship Game in Rome, Georgia on December 17, 2011 and earned the title National Champions with a victory over Carroll College by a score of 24-20.

This victory is a mark of pride to the entire Saint Xavier community, faculty, students and athletes, in particular Mike Feminis - head coach, Mark Yanule – offensive coordinator, Werner Emmrich – defensive coordinator, Mike Slovick – special team coordinator/linebackers coach, Bill Gleeson – assistant wide receivers coach, Bill McKeon – assistant wide receivers coach, John Casson – running backs coach, John D'Ambrosio – quarterback coach, Brian Badke – defensive backs coach, Joe Watson – defensive line coach, Tom Gullickson – assistant special teams coach, Joe Leccesi – assistant offensive line coach, Eric Schreiber – video coordinator, Brendan Sheehy – student assistant coach, Bob Hallberg – athletic director, Christine M. Wiseman, JD, school president, and team captains Patrick Appino, Chase Catton, Michael Johnson and Michael Prosser.

Head Coach Mike Feminis was also named NAIA National Coach of the Year.